



August 5, 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Commission Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support of SBC's application for entry into the long distance market in the State of Ohio. Based on a March 2002 study conducted by the Center for Regional Economic Issues at Case Western Reserve University, SBC's entrance into the long distance market will positively impact the State of Ohio and the Greater Cleveland area by providing reduced long distance service prices, increased productivity and the creation of 9,000 jobs.

As the 7th largest state in the nation, Ohio must keep pace with neighboring states to stimulate economic growth by encouraging healthy competition. SBC's entrance into long distance will benefit both employers and employees with the creation of jobs, reduced long distance prices, innovative options, and the convenience of bundled services. A competitive long distance market is another key element that will make our economic development efforts successful.

It is my hope that the Federal Communications Commission will agree with this position and allow SBC to enter into the long distance service market. It has been proven that increased competition offers consumers and businesses more choices at reasonable prices. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sue Thornton, Ph.D.  
President